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is inexplicable on the hypothesis of diffusion. The author ascribes to the lung tissue a distinct secretory power for both O and CO_2, a quality which is possessed by the swim-bladder of fishes.

DR. H. P. BOWDITCH'S "Hints for Teachers of Physiology"[1] is an admirable little book, intended for the use of teachers in grammar schools and upward. It contains numerous suggestions of methods by which text-book instruction may be supplemented by "simple observations and experiments on living bodies or on organic material, thus imparting to pupils a knowledge of the foundation on which physiology rests, and, at the same time, bringing the impressions made on the senses to aid the memory in retaining the facts communicated in a purely didactic way." Digestion, circulation, motion, voice, animal heat, respiration, vision, and hearing are treated, but by no means exhaustively, for the author does not attempt a complete treatise on physiology. The hints are so excellent that it is a pity that the work is not more full.

PSYCHOLOGY.

MINOT'S REPORT ON DIAGRAM TESTS.—During the past year a large number of postal cards were distributed, each bearing the printed request: "*Please draw ten diagrams on this card, without receiving any suggestion from any other person, and add your name and address.*"

The committee has received for examination 501 postal cards, with diagrams upon them. A few of the cards had more than ten diagrams upon them, and of such cards only the first ten diagrams on each were counted. A few cards had less than ten diagrams.

The cards were divided into three sets; 1, men; 2, women; 3, without names. Each set of cards was numbered, and the diagrams on each card numbered.

Such tests as the diagrams, on which this report is based, demonstrate the slightness of our real individual distinction and separation. The similarity is so great that the same visual images arise in many of us with approximately the same readiness.

We come here to a domain of psychology which has been but little and inadequately studied, namely, the frequency and the readiness with which ideas recur. In a previous report in the Proceedings (*ante*, pp. 86) I have shown that even in so indifferent a matter as the ten digits, there are unconscious preferences of the mind, or, in other words, that the notions or images of certain digits come forward oftener and more readily than of others ; and I have also shown *ante*, pp. 90-91, that the order of relative frequency is similar for different persons. It is probable that all ideas possess each its special degree of readiness of appearing in consciousness, and that the degree of readiness is approximately the same for a great many persons. This similarity probably also prevails in regard to the majority of ideas.

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[1] "Guides for Science Teaching," No. 14, pp. 58, Boston, D. C. Heath & Co., 1889.

This aspect of our mental processes puts the problem of thought-transference in a somewhat different light from that in which we have been asked to view it. It is evident that if two people are requested to think of some one thing as a class, such as a letter of the alphabet, a playing card, a baptismal name, there is by no means an equal chance of their selecting any one ; on the contrary, there is not only the probability that they will think of a special one first, but there is a chance of their both thinking of the same one, for the relative frequency or preponderance of one idea or image out of a set has been shown to be similar for a number of people. In order to prove the reality of thought-transference, it must be demonstrated that the observed coincidence of thoughts can *not* be explained by the law of relative frequency.—*From Proceedings of the Society of Psychical Research.*

MICROSCOPY.[1]

THE CULTURE OF INFUSORIA.[2]—*Damp chambers.* The first requisite in the culture of infusoria is suitable damp chambers, constructed with a view to reducing the evaporation of the water of the preparations to a minimum. Evidently, bell-jars, admitting a large volume of air, will not serve the purpose. Low, flat-bottomed dishes, with vertical sides, and about 20 cm. in diameter, are recommended. The dish is partly filled with fine, well-washed sand, and in this are planted longitudinally two upright strips of glass, of such a height that the superior edge is 4 or 5 mm. below the level of the edge of the dish.

On these upright pieces as supports are placed three others,

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[1] Edited by C. O. Whitman, Director of the Lake Laboratory, Milwaukee.

[2] E. Maupas. La Multiplication des Infusoires ciliés. *Arch. de Zool. Expér. et Gen.* xvi., no. 2, 1888, p. 179.